



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,158	10/31/2003	Kazuki Emori	SHO-0032	9103
23353 7590 04/02/2007 RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC LION BUILDING 1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER HARPER, TRAMAR YONG	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/02/2007	PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,158

Applicant(s)

EMORI ET AL.

Examiner

Tramar Harper

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/25/04, 9/16/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**Claims 1, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugimoto (US 6,409,170).**

**Claims 1 & 5:** Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine that comprises of a front panel attached to a main body with an opening formed or outlet (14) for the release of medals/coins (Fig. 2, Abstract, Col. 4:50-53). Sugimoto discloses a medal storage unit attached to the front panel and configured to store medals/coins provided from outlet (14). There is also, a guide member or chute (22) provided or attached to the main body, configured to guide the medals to the opening (Fig. 3, Col. 4:48-57).

Furthermore, there is a projection disposed in the vicinity of the opening and is projected from an inner face of the guide member (Fig. 4). Figure 4. illustrates a lower portion or face of the opening is somewhat below a lower portion or face of the guide member.

**Claim 3:** The projection is of the same width of the chute, considering it is interpreted as the lower part of the chute closest to the outlet (Fig. 4).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto (US 6,409,170) in view of Casanova et al (US 2002/0130011).**

**Claim 2:** Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine that comprises of a front panel attached to a main body with an opening formed or outlet (14) for the release of medals/coins (Fig. 2, Abstract, Col. 4:50-53). Sugimoto discloses a medal storage unit attached to the front panel and configured to store medals/coins provided from outlet (14). There is also, a guide member or chute (22) provided or attached to the main body, configured to guide the medals to the opening (Fig. 3, Col. 4:48-57). Furthermore, there is projection disposed in the vicinity of the opening and is projected from an inner face of the guide member (Fig. 4).

However, Sugimoto excludes a cover member configured to cover the guide member. Casanova et al. discloses a coin-processing machine that comprises of a guide member with a cover material disposed therein. The laminated material is located in the coin chute for purposes of reducing the noise that occurs as the coins impact the wall of the coin chute. The laminated material or metal further provides more rigidity and will deform less under the impact of coins (Figs. 10a-11, ¶ 65-66, 72). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify

Art Unit: 3714

the guide member of Sugimoto with the cover of Casanova for purposes of providing a laminated material/cover that will reduce the noise caused by coin impact and reduce the wear and tear due to impact (§ 65-66, 72).

**Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto (US 6,409,170) in view of Davies (US 4,326,621).**

**Claim 4:** Sugimoto discloses the limitations with respect to claim 1, but fails to disclose the chute or guide member made of a resin material. Davies discloses a coin detecting apparatus, wherein the chute is made of an electrically insulated material such as synthetic or plastic material (resin material)(Col. 5:40-45, Col. 9:20-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention was made to modify the chute of Sugimoto such that it is made of a resin material such as plastic, as taught by Davies for purposes of providing a electrically insulated chute. Such a modification would prevent electrically components within near or attached to the chute for short-circuiting. Furthermore, it is well known in the art for an artisan to make chutes out of a resin material because they are readily fabricated, relatively inexpensive, and is lightweight.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Okada (US 5,441,447) teaches a similarly structured coin dispensing gaming device.**

**Kovens (US 5,649,614) teaches a chute cover for a dispensing device.**

Art Unit: 3714

**Tamaki (US 6,312,331 & US 6,378,685) teaches a gaming device with a coin receiving means.**

**Tanaka et al (US 6,595,343) teaches coin-rolling device with a resin molded chute or guide member.**


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tramar Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-6177. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TH

3/27/07

  
ROBERT E. PEZZUTO  
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER